

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this Examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jennifer R. Seng on June 16, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 6, line 6, please replace the term "-wherein" with the term – wherein --.

Claim 6, line 7, please replace the term "means.." with the phrase – means, and wherein the self-supporting shaped article is in the form of a tape. --.

Please cancel claims 8 and 9.

### ***Reasons for Allowance***

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record does not teach or suggest a self-supporting article comprising an adhesive composite containing a hydrogenated nitrite polymer derived from a conjugated diene, an alpha, beta-unsaturated nitrile and an unsaturated carboxylic acid, said polymer having a Mooney viscosity of less than 10, wherein the adhesive polymer composite is layered between one or more supporting means, and wherein the article is in the form of a tape.

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3. The closest prior art is United States Patent Application Publication Number 2003/0171500 AI to Guo (hereinafter 'Guo'). Guo discloses articles, such as belts, hoses and rolls having a layer of an adhesive polymer containing a hydrogenated nitrile polymer. However, Guo does not disclose the adhesive polymer having the chemical composition recited in independent claim 6 with a Mooney viscosity lower than 10.

4. Any comments considered necessary by Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John J. Figueroa whose telephone number is (571)272-8916. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 8:00-6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Seidleck can be reached on (571) 272-1078. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/James J. Seidleck/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1796

JJF/JS